

Public information sessions were held on Thursday, September 16, in both Carteret and Woodbridge, with the aim of enhancing public cooperation with the ALB field surveys. The 1:30 p.m. meeting in Carteret was the borough's second on the beetle since the infestation was discovered there on August 2. Agriculture Secretary Charles M. Kuperus moderated the Woodbridge meeting at 7 p.m. Representatives from the Woodbridge Environmental Committee requested and received additional ALB booklets and pest alerts to be handed out during a street fair in the township on Saturday, September 18 (rain date September 25). The Woodbridge session was taped for later broadcast by Woodbridge Township Television (WTT) and will run locally on channels 35 and 36 repeatedly over the next several weeks.

Residents' questions centered mainly on the process of removing infested trees and how those trees would be replaced. They were told that tree removal couldn't start until after the first frost, which should kill off the adult beetles. Beginning removal before then would risk dispersing adults to other trees. Once the trees are removed, they will be chipped to a small enough size to ensure eradication. Reforestation will focus on replacing trees with those the beetle will not infest, such as oaks.

Contacts have been made between the New Jersey Department of Agriculture and the municipal governments of Linden and Rahway to discuss possible information sessions in those municipalities at a later date.

Members of the New Jersey and New York ALB teams will be featured on Ralph Snodsmith's syndicated radio show

Field surveys continued this week in Carteret, Linden, and Woodbridge to determine the extent of the infestation. More than 3,800 host trees have been climbed or examined for signs of the beetle. The main core of the infestation, with trees showing exit holes and egg sites, remains about 1 square mile in size with 402 known infested trees. A small number of infested trees have been found within the quarantine zone in an area approximately ½-mile from the core area. Survey crews are composed of observers from the New Jersey Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Agriculture Animal Plant Health Inspection Service (USDA APHIS), the US Forest Service and the New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection New Jersey Forest Service and the U.S. Department of Agriculture Federal Grain Inspection Service.

Twelve U.S. Forest Service smokejumpers from Montana, California, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, and two tree climbers from the USDA Animal Plant Health Inspection Service ALB Program in Amityville, New York are assisting NJDA tree climbers in climbing and examining trees for signs of the beetle.